AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please amend Figs. 1 and 2 as shown in the attached replacement sheet. Also, please add new Figs. 3 and 4 as shown in the attached new sheet of drawings.

Attachments: **one (1) replacement sheet including Figs. 1 and 2**
one (1) new sheet including Fig. 3 and Fig. 4

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are all the claims pending in the application.

Drawings

Applicants have amended Fig. 1 in a manner believed to overcome the objection. Applicants have also added new Figs. 3 and 4 to illustrate all the features of the claimed invention, thereby overcoming the Examiner's objection regarding every feature being illustrated. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

A) Yamazaki

Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamazaki et al. (US 2001/0036376). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 sets forth that the conductive agent in the resin outer layer is in the range of 0.01 to 20 parts by weight relative to 100 part by weight of the resin. The Examiner asserts that Yamazaki discloses a conductive agent in the range of 0.01 to 5 parts by weight, but fails to specifically identify where Yamazaki discloses this range. The only time that Yamazaki discloses the 0.01 to 5 parts by weight range is with respect to the foamed elastic body (*see* paragraphs [0035]-[0038]). However, the Examiner asserts that the Yamazaki foamed elastic body constitutes an elastic layer, not a resin outer layer. Accordingly, the 0.01 to 5 range cited by the Examiner is inapplicable to a resin outer layer. In fact, Yamazaki does not disclose the

relative weight of a conductive agent in a resin layer at all. Therefore, Yamazaki does not disclose each and every element of claim 1 and claim 1 is allowable over Yamazaki.

Claims 4, 10 and 13 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable at least because of their dependency.

Claims 7 and 8 are also allowable over Yamazaki, because Yamazaki fails to disclose each and every element of claims 7 and 8. Claim 7 sets forth fine particles which are made of a rubber or a synthetic resin and claim 8 depends from claim 7 and further defines the fine particle materials. The Examiner asserts that Yamazaki anticipates claims 7 and 8 because Yamazaki discloses melamine resin (*see* paragraph [0050] lines 5-6). However, although the melamine resin is part of the resin coating layer, there is no indication that the Yamazaki melamine resin constitutes fine particles in the coating layer. In claim 19, Yamazaki discloses a layer of resin with electroconductive fine particles, or semi-electroconductive fine particles. Therefore, although the resin may be generally formed with melamine resin, the fine particles would be another material.

(B) Mimura

Claims 1-5 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mimura et al. (US 6,360,069). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 sets forth that the conductive agent in the resin outer layer is in the range of 0.01 to 20 parts by weight relative to 100 part by weight of the resin. Claim 1 is allowable over Mimura at least because Mimura does not disclose a conductive agent in the resin outer layer as

claimed. Claims 2-5 and 13 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable at least because of their dependency.

(C) Achiha

Claims 1, 6 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Achiha et al. (JP 2002-310136). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Achiha also fails to teach the conductive agent as set forth in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over Achiha. Claim 13 depends from claim 1 and is allowable at least because of its dependency.

Claim 6 sets forth particles which provide a surface roughness for a resin outer layer. The Examiner asserts that although Achiha does not specifically teach fine particles, that the Achiha device would inherently have particles. However, there is no indication that Achiha would have particles which provide a surface roughness as claimed. The present application teaches a resin layer which has a fine roughness on the outer periphery. This fine roughness enables the developing roller to uniformly hold a predetermined amount of toner on the outer periphery. Even if Achiha would inherently have fine particles, there is no indication that they would provide a surface roughness so that the developing roller could hold toner. Accordingly, claim 6 is allowable over Achiha.

(D) Hayashi

Claims 1, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hayashi et al. (US 6,096,395). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Hayashi also fails to teach the conductive agent as set forth in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over Hayashi. Claims 12 and 13 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable at least because of their dependency.

(E) Tagaki in view of Eguchi

Claims 1, 9 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tagaki in view of Eguchi. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

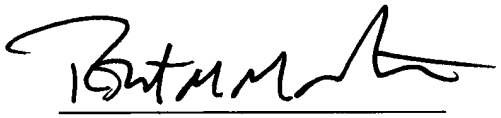
Tagaki and Eguchi also fail to teach the conductive agent as set forth in claim 1. Therefore, even if it were appropriate to combine these references as suggested by the Examiner, the combination still would be deficient with respect to the claimed conductive agent. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over the combined teachings and suggestions of Tagaki and Eguchi. Claims 9 and 13 depend from claim 1 and are allowable at least because of their dependency.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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